

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 11775 031209Z

46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 EB-07

OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 SCCT-01 /070 W

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P R 021445Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6548

USIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 11775

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: NEW VIOLATION OF MISSION'S DIPLOMATIC PREMISES: USIS

REFS: (A) AIDE MEMOIRE DATED JANUARY 1& 1975; (B) ADDIS 1744;

(C) ADDIS 1995; (D) ADDIS 11749

1. EXPLOSION AT DOWNTOWN ADDIS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING, EARLY MORNING OCTOBER 2

(REFTEL), HAS ONCE AGAIN LED VIOLATION OF USIS

PREMISES. SCENARIO WAS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FIRST VIOLATIONS AT THE

BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR . (REFS A-C).

2. FACTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: AT 0945 HOURS USIS DIRECTOR CAME WITHIN THE BUILDING UPON THREE CASUALLY DRESSED YOUNG ETHIOPIANS WHO INQUIRED AFTER FSL KAHSU FESSAHIE. UPON DIRECTOR'S REQUEST, THEY IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS SECURITY POLICE. ONE OF THEM, AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING LIEUTENANT WONDWOSSEN WORKALEMAHU, INFORMED THE DIRECTOR THAT HE AND HIS MEN WERE UNDER ORDERS TO PICK UP KAHSU. DIRECTOR TOLD LIEUTENANT THAT DIRECTOR'S PERMISSION WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DIPLOMATIC PREMISES FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE COULD, OF COURSE, WAIT AT THE ENTRANCE AT THE USIS BUILDING TO PICK

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 11775 031209Z

UP KAHSU WHEN HE LEFT. THE SECURITY MEN REJECTED THESE ALTERNATIVES

AND PROCEEDED DIRECTLY TO KAHSU'S OFFICE WHERE THEY TOOK HIM INTO CUSTODY. USIS

DIRECTOR THEREUPON REQUESTED LIEUTENANT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER BEFORE REMOVING FSL. LIEUTENANT COMPLIED BUT HIS COMPANIONS TOOK KAHUU DIRECTLY TO WAITING CAR OUTSIDE USIS PREMISES. DIRECTOR THEREUPON AGAIN EXPLAINED TO HIM DIPLOMATIC NATURE OF USIS PREMISES. LIEUTENANT POLITELY DECLINED TO ACCEPT DIPLOMATIC CHARACTER OF USIS "SINCE LATTER PERFORMS A PUBLIC SERVICE." DIRECTOR MADE CLEAR TO LIEUTENANT WONDWOSSEN THAT QUESTION OF VIOLATION USIS PREMISES WAS SEPARATE QUESTION FROM THAT OF EPMG'S JURISDICTION OVER ITS CITIZENS WHO OBVIOUSLY WERE SUBJECT TO ETHIOPIAN LAWS AND REGULATIONS. DIRECTOR WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED BY FSIO THAT SECURITY MEN BEAT UP YOUNG ETHIOPIAN IN FRONT OF USIS BUILDING WHO PERFORMS CASUAL LABOR FOR USIS FROM TIME TO TIME.

3. THE AMBASSADOR WENT BRIEFLY OVER THESE EVENTS MORNING OCTOBER 2 WITH ACTING FONMIN GETACHEW KIBRET AT MOFA FOLLOWING TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS. ON THIS OCCASION, THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS THIRD SUCH INCIDENT THIS CALENDAR YEAR, AND LODGED A "STRONG",

ORAL PROTEST" ON THE UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY BY SECURITY AGENTS INTO USIS PREMISES. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS "A SERIOUS MATTER" AND THAT THESE REPEATED VIOLATIONS WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HIS PROTEST WAS DIRECTED EXCLUSIVELY AT VIOLATION OF USIS PREMISES AND NOT RPT NOT AT SEPARATE QUESTION EPMG'S RIGHT TO ARREST ITS NATIONALS. ACTING FONMIN, IN TAKING NOTE OF FOREGOING SAID ONLY THAT MOFA HAD YET TO RECEIVE REPORT OF THIS INCIDENT.

4. EMBASSY PLANS REITERATION OF ORAL PROTEST IN DIPLOMATIC NOTE.
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